Development of textile industry in Assam

2564. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of development and promotion of textile industry;

(b) whether people of Assam would be benefited by the development of textile industry; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The Indian textiles industry is growing steadily and during the recent past it has been able to attract large investment, increasing the pace of modernization and technological upgradation. This has created additional employment opportunities, in the organized and decentralized sectors. The Government also implements various schemes to ensure the holistic growth and development of the Textiles industry, including Handicrafts, Handlooms and the decentralized Powerlooms sectors. The benefits of these schemes flow to all States/ Union Territories, including Assam.

Textiles Job Guarantee Scheme

2565. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring Textile Job Guarantee Scheme, to help rural families below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to implement this policy in the backward tribal-dominated regions of Orissa, to improve its economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Presently, there is no proposal with

the Government to bring any Textiles Job Guarantee Scheme to help rural families below the poverty line.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Decline in export of cotton clothes

†2566. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in the export of cotton clothes from the country due to increasing competition in this field; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the steps being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. As per trade data of Department of Commerce, it may be seen that exports of readymade garment cotton including accessories by India was US$ 4789.66 million during April, 2003-March, 2004, US$ 5043.92 million during April, 2004 to March, 2005 and US$ 6347.92 million during April, 2005 to March, 2006, which indicates that there is no decline in export of cotton registering growth in exports of cotton clothes.

(b) Question does not arise. However, Government has been taking continuous measures to further boost the export of textiles including cotton clothes. Some of the important initiatives taken in this regard are as follows:—

(i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.

(ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iv) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). Incentives are

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.